

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for publishing information content over a network, comprising:

one or more subscriber computers connected to a server via the network, each of the subscriber computers having a client application residing thereon for managing communication between the respective subscriber computer and the server, and a console application for enabling the serving of information from the respective subscriber computer such that the information is accessible via a standard web browser application, and the server having one or more APIs residing thereon for managing end-user information received from the subscriber computers.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the APIs further manage end-user information received from a managing service provider.

3. The system of Claim 1, further comprising a presentation layer for dynamically generating a webpage that is displayed in the web browser application and has actively managed hyperlinks to the information located on the respective subscriber computers.

4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the subscriber computers are connected with the server via the Internet.

5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the availability of the information is restricted to a community of designated individuals.

6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the published information includes any of image files, movie files, audio files, and documents.

7. The system of Claim 1, wherein communication between the subscriber computers and the server is accomplished via HTTP/S over the Internet.

8. The system of Claim 7, wherein an XML messaging scheme is used to manage communications between the client application and the server.

9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the XML messaging scheme includes a first message transmitted from the client application to the server for informing the server that an associated website is active, a second message for informing the server of the IP address of a subscriber computer, a third message transmitted from the client application to the server for transmitting configuration information to the server, a fourth message transmitted from the client application to the server for sending e-mail addresses of guests to whom various notification messages should be sent when a website is online, and a fifth message transmitted from the server to the client application to determine whether the client application is reachable.

10. The system of Claim 1, wherein the server comprises a subscriber module for communicating with the client application, a guest module for processing requests originating from the web browser application, a management API module for providing a secure interface between a partner computer and the server, and one or more daemon applications for managing communications among one or more subscribers and guests.

11. The system of Claim 10, wherein the guest module resolves a domain name to a current IP address of a subscriber computer, and monitors the subscriber computers to determine which of the subscriber computers are online, and if online, redirects a computer originating the request to the appropriate subscriber computer.

12. The system of Claim 10, wherein the guest module handles subsequent requests originating from the web browser application and redirects such requests to the appropriate subscriber computer.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the subsequent requests are hyperlink selections.

14. The system of Claim 10, wherein the guest module causes an away webpage to be displayed in the web browser application when the subscriber computer attempted to be accessed is offline.

15. The system of Claim 10, wherein the management API module permits the creation and management of subscriber account information.

16. The system of Claim 10, wherein the daemon applications handle e-mail traffic generated by either of subscriber actions and management API module requests.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the daemon applications perform any of generating HTML e-mails with appropriate branding information, sending e-mail messages on behalf of a particular subscriber, generating private web site invitations, and sending e-mail notification messages.

18. The system of Claim 10, wherein the management API module comprises an inbound API module for enabling the creation, modification, and deletion of end-user record information, an outbound API module for permitting querying of the system, and a security and authentication module for authenticating communications within the system.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein the inbound API module includes a first function for creating a new end-user record, a second function for updating an end-user record, and a third function for removing an end-user record.

20. The system of Claim 19, wherein the first function comprises a data structure having a first field for identifying a unique identifier of a partner, a second field for identifying the domain name associated with an end-user, a third field for identifying a user name associated with an end-user, a fourth field for identifying an e-mail address associated with an end-user, and a fifth field for identifying a given name of an end-user.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein the data structure has a sixth field for identifying a password associated with an end-user, a seventh field for identifying a trial period timeframe, and an eighth field for determining branding and end-user ownership information.

22. The system of Claim 19, wherein the second function comprises a data structure having a first field for identifying a unique identifier of a partner, a second field for identifying the domain name associated with an end-user, and a third field for identifying a trial period timeframe.

23. The system of Claim 22, wherein the data structure has a fourth field for determining branding and end-user ownership information, a fifth field for indicating whether a preferred e-mail address for an end-user has changed, a sixth field for indicating whether an account name for an end-user has changed, and a seventh field for indicating whether a password for an end-user has changed.

24. The system of Claim 19, wherein the third function comprises a data structure having a first field for identifying a unique identifier of a partner, a second field for identifying the domain name associated with an end-user, and a third field for identifying a user name associated with an end-user.

25. The system of Claim 24, wherein the data structure has a fourth field for determining branding and end-user ownership information.

26. The system of Claim 18, wherein the outbound API module includes a first function for returning the number of registered subscribers of the system, a second function for returning the number of activated sites, a third function for returning the number of converted sites, a fourth function for returning the number of churns, and a fifth function for returning the number of invitation messages sent to one or more guests.

27. The system of Claim 26, wherein the outbound API further includes a sixth function for returning the average number of registered websites, a seventh function for returning the number of guests that visited particular websites, an eighth function for returning the total pages rendered from a specific website, and a ninth function for returning an accumulated amount of data served from a specific website.

28. The system of Claim 1, wherein the client application communicates with the console application via a software registry which permits configuration of the system and management of content.

29. The system of Claim 28, wherein configuration information is persisted on the subscriber computer and a portion of the configuration information is written to a configuration file associated with an instance of a server running in the subscriber computer.

30. The system of Claim 29, wherein the instance of a server is an instance of an Apache server.

31. The system of Claim 29, wherein a sync file is used to notify the client application of a change in state of the registry, such that the client application responds to the notification from the sync file to read the system registry and process the configuration changes.